

SENATE BILL 2579

By Dixon

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 40, Chapter 11, relative to professional bondsmen.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 40, Chapter 11, Part 3, is amended by adding the following new section:

Section \_\_\_\_\_. (a) "Bounty hunter" means a person who attempts or takes into custody a person for a fee the payment of which is contingent upon the taking of a person into custody. Provided, however, bounty hunting does not include the taking into custody of a person by a professional bondsman.

(b) A bounty hunter shall attend annually at least eight (8) hours of training conducted by the department of commerce and insurance. Such training shall include instruction on nonviolent means of apprehending persons and the law on the apprehension of persons. Such instruction shall also include at least two (2) hours of weapons training. Upon completing the training required by this subsection, a bounty hunter shall receive a pocket card from the department certifying that such bounty hunter has completed the required training.

(c) Before a bounty hunter may take a person who failed to appear in court into custody, the bounty hunter shall present to the chief law enforcement officer of the political subdivision where the taking will occur:

(1) A copy of the applicable warrant;

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(2) A copy of the bond;

(3) Proper credentials from a professional bondsman of Tennessee or another state; and

(4) A pocket card issued by the department of commerce and insurance certifying that such bounty hunter has completed the training required by this section.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.